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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Farm labor holds the number one spot in this week's summary. One State reports the largest potato acreage in many years. Another tells how neighborhood leaders reached 70,000 rural families with information on Victory Gardens.

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KANSAS

May 12, 1943

Farm labor.— Assistance of Federal and State agencies being coordinated to meet Kansas farm labor needs. Agreement worked out between USES, FSA, and Extension on recruitment and placement in counties. Instructions prepared on cooperation with Selective Service in arranging deferment of farm workers. Outline made for handling farm labor program in State. Extension Farm Labor Committee set up.

Transportation.— Considerable attention given to problem of getting dairy and poultry products to market. Committee organized among representatives of dairy and poultry industry to develop State industry transportation plan. Area committees for dairy and poultry transportation set up to make area plans. Assisted State rationing committee in reviewing applications for new trucks.

Feed situation.— Producers and market men canvassed on feed outlook. In farmer meetings buying of both proteins and grains emphasized. Price regulations and their effect on producer explained, especially floors under prices of dairy and poultry products. These floors have encouraged producers to expand production to reach increased goals.

Livestock.— Worked with State Industry Transportation Advisory Committee on plan for livestock transportation and marketing. Special attention given to ceiling prices and their effect on price trends and feed situation; probable supply of feed grains and protein supplements; feeding lambs to heavier weights; and timely marketing of sheep and lambs to furnish No. 1 shearling pelts.

Oil crops.— Encouraging growers to have sufficient acreage of soybeans and flax to meet year's needs. Elevators urged to handle these crops. Effort made to develop orderly marketing programs. Working on possibilities for cooperative soybean mill, which is badly needed to process this year's crop.

Foods and nutrition.- Plans made for setting up canning centers, delegating responsibility for them, and procuring equipment. Eleven district meetings held for home demonstration agents, FSA home management supervisors, and home economics teachers, to discuss need for such centers and procedure for setting them up.

Women's unit lesson on "Meal Planning in the Emergency" presented by radio. Programs planned so all units could meet same day to listen, then carry on discussion after broadcast. Leaders were supplied in advance with suggestions, subject matter, and guide sheet. Eleven counties took part in program.

Clothing.- Clothing conservation week observed in April. Merchants cooperated by making window displays. Libraries gave prominence to bulletins on clothing selection and care. Teachers carried on special activities concerning clothing. All women's units were urged to do conservation work and to help someone outside on a clothing problem.

Painting the farmstead.- Series of training meetings on "Selection and Use of Paint To Preserve the Farmstead" conducted in several counties. Emphasis placed on selecting good paint, applying it properly, importance of painting to preserve buildings and also to help morale by cleaning and brightening inside and outside of farm home.

LOUISIANA
May 1, 1943

Victory Gardens.- Intensive operations in 300,000 rural and urban gardens throughout State. Backward spring stimulated activities to insure home food supplies. Free "pinches" of Louisiana-developed seed, totaling 39,902 samples, distributed to Victory gardeners by Extension.

Crops.- Largest potato acreage in many years; over 100,000 acres planted. First carload of 1943 crop moved out of south Louisiana April 28, peak of early shipments expected May 10.

Snap-bean shipments began in small quantities from lower part of State. Prospects are for large crop. Shipping season lasts May 10 to June 15.

Plenty of all kinds of greens available from Louisiana truck gardens, including turnip and mustard greens, and kale. Large supplies going to military camps throughout State.

Strawberry season affected by unfavorable weather. Probably not more than one-third of last year's \$6,000,000 crop will be produced. New Klommore, developed by experiment station, L.S.U., proves to be backlog for strawberry farmer. Its quality helps to overcome disadvantage of short crop.

Junior livestock show.- Feature of annual livestock spring show was display of 264 dairy heifers raised by 4-H boys and girls and FFA boys. This was first junior livestock show in which dairy animals were exhibited in State. Purpose was to stimulate development of dairy herds to meet wartime demand for milk and dairy products. Bidding was keen among dairy-men and farmers when animals were auctioned. High prices prevailed.

Grand champion sold for \$1.50 a pound; reserve champion for 50 cents a pound. Lowest price was 22 cents a pound. Animals will be used to improve dairy herds throughout State.

4-H Ambulance Drive.-- In this project Louisiana 4-H Clubs led entire country with total of \$2,866.07. Clubs of Union Parish had distinction of making largest contribution of any single county in Nation--\$2,463.80--raised through sale of eggs gathered by 4-H Clubs. Money was sufficient to purchase ambulance and jeep, presented to Red Cross and military authorities during 4-H Achievement Day ceremonies. Project had double effect of aiding military effort and contributing to food production program, as eggs were sent to nearby dehydrating plant for lend-lease shipment.

Farm-home management.-- Each of 960 home demonstration clubs throughout State devoted 15 minutes of monthly program to "Planning on the Home Front." Each member made survey of efforts being made in her own home regarding production of food, conservation of fuel, clothing, and house furnishings; adoption of practices contributing to health and safety; time and money management; and neighborhood activities. Programs were under direction of neighborhood leaders.

Conserving clothing.-- Seven leader-training schools held during month in different parts of State to demonstrate practices in remodeling and repairing clothing, as economies essential to war effort. Over 100 leaders attended schools.

OREGON

May 1, 1943

Farm labor.-- Series of district county farm labor program-planning meetings reached every county in State. County subcommittee meetings well attended by school officials, members of county crop and livestock committees, agricultural processors, and chambers of commerce representatives. Discussed topics dealing with farm labor, including current crop-labor data on prospective yields and seasonality of crops, county data on number and composition of agricultural labor force and potential supply of workers, and outline for programming county farm labor activities. Subcommittee members now better prepared as result of exchange of information and viewpoints.

Mobilization of youth of State for additional service in producing and harvesting food crops placed under leadership of a USES manager, former 4-H Club leader. He will work with county agents and committees in setting up and operating youth programs designed on local level to help meet farm labor needs of each county.

Study made in key counties of agricultural work done by women in 1942. Results form basis of plans for more effective employment of women in appropriate types of work in 1943, including county mobilization of nonfarm women. Program will be submitted to State farm labor advisory committee for approval.

Procedure developed for county agents to receive and forward applications for agricultural labor in counties where USES has no offices.

Victory Gardens.- Neighborhood leaders reached 70,000 rural homes with information on Victory Gardens and family food supply. Neighborhood leader training meetings held in each community in preparation for campaign, and identification card given each leader. Weekly radio program, "Neighborhood Leader Question Box," put on for neighborhood and community leaders by extension staff members.

Market gardening.- Vegetable growers' economic conference called by Extension to analyze facts of market garden production and determine kind and volume of vegetable crops needed to meet wartime food requirements, both military and civilian, in nearby markets. Conference was held in three sections in different parts of State. Plans of action were formulated to meet production and marketing problems, particularly those of labor supply and cost, farm machinery supply, fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides, containers, transportation, price ceilings, and Government price policies. Those attending recognized need for meeting larger demand for fresh vegetables, because of Army camp requirements, restrictions on sale of processed foods, and recent population changes in Pacific Northwest.

Fertilizer shortage.- Greatly increased acreage of war crops, particularly potatoes, vegetables for processing, and vegetable seeds, brought threat of acute fertilizer shortage, especially in Klamath Falls area, Willamette Valley, and other sections where there are about 20,000 acres of "A" crops requiring fertilizer. Appeal to WPB and other agencies resulted in allocation of enough fertilizers to give material relief.

4-H Clubs.- All counties emphasizing organization of 4-H Clubs and enrollment of new members in production and conservation projects, particularly gardens. Poultry, rabbit, dairy, hog, and sheep clubs organized where adaptable. Cooking and clothing clubs encouraged to carry on canning, cold storage, or dehydration work. Club agents report difficulty in finding local leaders for 4-H projects.

Home economics.- Concentrating on phases of foods and nutrition and home management. Projects receiving greatest impetus are family food supply, Victory Gardens, meat cookery, and meat extenders. Nine counties doing work on care and repair of sewing machines. Homemakers reported 1,600 machines repaired and put in good working order.

Farm fire control.- Voluntary rural fire-fighting program reorganized and perfected in every county in State in cooperation with Forest Service and State and county forest protective associations. Plans made for further training in fire prevention and control and more clearly defined duties for leaders and crew members.

Agents' emergency work.- County agricultural agents report spending more time than ever before in assisting farmers with war emergency problems. Typical problems met: How to obtain rationed machinery; what items are rationed; where to buy new or second-hand equipment; what are regulations on slaughter and sale of meat; how to obtain gasoline for nonhighway use; what are regulations on sale of fertilizers and insecticides; where to purchase seed potatoes, hay, and protein feed supplement.

PENNSYLVANIA

May 1, 1943

Farm labor.-- Pennsylvania is definitely organized to handle emergency farm labor assignment as result of two recent State conferences of county agricultural agents. Plans call for county committees, farmer-dominated, but also representing major urban interests and potentially cooperative groups. Committees will serve as local advisory groups to county agricultural agent in conduct of farm labor program.

Headquarters for emergency farm labor activity rapidly being set up in each county. First steps taken to determine local farm labor needs preparatory to making plans for supplying these indicated needs.

Poultry.-- Informal survey made at 9 county-wide poultry meetings and 12 community poultry meetings attended by more than 1,650 persons representing 13 counties, indicates poultrymen plan to increase flocks over 1942. 479 poultry farmers reported they started 615,812 chicks a year ago and plan this year to brood total of 718,280 chicks--increase of 16.5 percent. Same farmers reported 241,521 layers housed in fall of 1941, but now have 289,826 hens in laying houses--increase of 20 percent. In no counties did reports show decrease in number of layers or number of chicks to be brooded as compared with 1942.

Nutrition and health.-- One county recently reported special effort made to prevent colds. Publicity was given to relationship between proper diet and colds, by means of radio, press, circular letters, and through adult and 4-H groups.

Same county reports slogan of "Planning the canning of the greens" to accompany campaign for more general canning of dandelions, beet greens, broccoli, and edible wild greens.

Home accident prevention and simple first aids emphasized this year in many county homemaking programs.

